



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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March 10, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT STATE FUNDING FOR THE FISHING IN THE CITY PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 23, AGENDA OF MARCH 11, 2003)

Item No. 23 on the March 11, 2003 Agenda is a recommendation from the Fish and Game Commission to send a five signature letter to the Governor, the County's legislative delegation, and various committees, requesting continued support for the "Fishing in the City" (FIC) and Urban Lakes Stocking programs in the South Coast Region by the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for Fiscal Years 2002-03 and 2003-04; and to notify local agencies of the probable loss of urban fishing personnel and fish stocking of local lakes.

The Governor's budget recommends cutting \$176,000 in FY 2002-03 and \$1.2 million in FY 2003-04 from the Urban Fishing Program. In addition, hatchery operations will be reduced by \$1.6 million in FY 2003-04, which could result in closing two hatcheries, one of which provides trout to nine lakes operated by Los Angeles County.

The FIC program was started in 1993. It is operated by staff from DFG, with support from volunteers and sponsors. DFG organizes the program, stocks the lakes, provides the fishing poles and tackle, and furnishes trained instructors to teach children how to fish, as well as respect for the environment.

Until last year, the FIC program was fully funded by Federal grants. On June 12, 2002, the Board sent a five signature letter (copy attached) to the Governor to request that funding for this program be maintained. Subsequently, two permanent positions were added to the State budget for the South Coast Region.

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According to the program's director for the South Coast Region, it appears that DFG will implement the proposed FY 2003-04 budget cuts by eliminating these positions. Without this staffing, DFG cannot conduct the programs required by its contract with the Federal government, resulting in the loss of Federal reimbursement. Federal funding is critical to continuation of the FIC program. In addition, the proposed reduction in hatchery operations will likely cause DFG to discontinue stocking nine County lakes, with nearly 100,000 pounds of trout, at an annual cost of \$444,000.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) reports that DFG conducts youth programs at all of our urban lakes and that DPR is not equipped or funded to conduct these programs. This is particularly true for the large foster youth programs, where as many as 500 fishing poles and tackle are needed. Also, while DPR does stock some lakes at County expense, the loss of 100,000 pounds of trout would have a significant impact on the thousands of park patrons that enjoy fishing.

Support for the Fish and Game Commission's recommendation is consistent with the action taken by your Board on June 11, 2002 to support a similar recommendation.

DEJ: GK
MAL:DRS:lm

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Legislative Strategist